

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) ~~Flat folded~~ A flat-folded personal respiratory ~~device or faces~~ face mask comprising:

a first portion and a second portion, connecting with each other along at least one common edge, flat-foldable along the common edge[[(s)]];

securing mean to secure said ~~face-mask~~ face mask on the face of a wearer thereby forming an effective respiratory seal as the wearer inhale and release the respiratory seal as the wearer exhale; and

filtering mean to filter inhaling air.

2. (Currently amended) ~~Flat folded-breathing mask~~ A flat-folded face mask as claimed in claim 1 wherein said effective respiratory seal covers a minimum yet essential area of nose [[(33)], chin [[(35)]] and two symmetrical edges [[(34)]] connecting [[(33)] and [(35)]]].

3. (Currently amended) ~~Flat folded-breathing mask~~ A flat-folded face mask as claimed in claim 2 wherein said essential area is adaptive to an extensive range of face sizes which is defined by eye-to-chin distance at least range from 94mm to 104mm as shown in figure 16 and figure 17.

4. (Currently amended) ~~Flat folded-breathing mask~~ A flat-folded face mask as claimed in claim 1 wherein said securing mean includes an elastic headband providing holding force (F) at location substantially away from the periphery of the ~~face-mask~~ face mask.

5. (Currently amended) ~~Flat folded-breathing mask~~ A flat-folded face mask as claimed in claim 1 wherein said filtering mean includes the main body of the ~~breathing mask~~ face mask made of filtering sheet material.

6. (Currently amended) ~~Flat folded breathing mask~~ A flat-folded face mask as claimed in claim 1 wherein said filtering mean includes a filter part integrated in the main body of the ~~face mask~~ face mask.

7. (Currently amended) ~~Flat folded breathing mask~~ A flat-folded face mask as claimed in claim 1 wherein said filtering mean includes a user replaceable filter part.

8. (Currently amended) A process for making the flat-folded personal respiratory ~~device or a face mask~~ face mask as claimed in claim 1 comprising:

first step of folding a roll of sheet material along the length of the sheet material;

second step of welding the folded sheet material along pre-defined edge ~~[(s)]~~; and

third step of cutting the shape of the ~~face mask~~ face mask in the flat-folded configuration out of the roll of sheet material.

9. (Currently amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The process for making flat-folded personal respiratory ~~device or a face mask~~ face mask as claimed in claim ~~[[6]]~~ 8 wherein said roll of sheet material includes as least two layers construction.

10. (Currently amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The process for making flat-folded personal respiratory ~~device or a face mask~~ face mask as claimed in claim 1 comprising:

~~first step of~~ folding a flat sheet material;

~~second step of~~ welding the folded sheet material along a pre-defined edge ~~(s)~~;
and

~~third step of~~ cutting the shape of the ~~face mask~~ face mask in the flat-folded configuration out of the sheet material.

11. (Currently amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The process for making flat-folded personal respiratory ~~device or a face mask~~ face mask as claimed in claim 8 wherein said sheet material includes as least two layers construction.

12. (New) A personal respiratory face mask for covering the nose and mouth of a wearer comprising:

mask body, comprising at least two generally flat parts, made of air-permeable filter media, connectable to each other along a vertical, common edge;

said mask body being foldable to a first flat configuration for ease of storage and carrying, and capable of being unfolded to a second, convex open configuration for covering the nose and mouth of a wearer, forming a tentlike appearance with said common edge running from the top to the bottom of the mask body;

said common edge serving to hold the mask body away from the nose and mouth of the wearer;

means for filtering inhaled air;

means for securing the mask body against the wearer's face, imposing a force (F), along said common edge, substantially away from the periphery of the mask body and at an elevation corresponding to the space between the nose and mouth, and directed toward the face of the wearer;

wherein the peripheral portions of the mask body are more flexible to accommodate the face shape and provide a respiratory seal with positive pressure applied from the outside during inhalation, while allowing exhaled air to pass easily through the peripheral flexible portions.

13. (New) The personal respiratory face mask according to claim 12, wherein the means for securing the mask body is an elastic headband or earloop that contacts the mask body along said common edge, substantially away from the periphery of the mask body and at an elevation that corresponds to the space between the nose and mouth.

14. (New) The personal respiratory face mask according to claim 12, wherein the means for securing the mask body can be attached and released from the mask body by the wearer.

15. (New) The personal respiratory face mask according to claim 12, wherein stiffeners are incorporated into the mask body from said common edge toward the

face in the same elevation as said force (F) applied, reinforcing the mask body where stress is strongest and allowing the rest of the mask body to be more flexible.

16. (New) The personal respiratory face mask according to claim 12, wherein the means for securing the mask body is fixed onto the mask body, at location(s) substantially away from the periphery of the face mask and near to said common edge.

17. (New) A personal respiratory face mask for covering the nose and mouth of a wearer comprising:

mask body, comprising at least two generally flat parts, connectable to each other along a vertical, common edge;

said mask body being foldable to a first flat configuration for ease of storage and carrying, and capable of being unfolded to a second, convex open configuration for covering the nose and mouth of a wearer, forming a tentlike appearance with said common edge running from the top to the bottom of the mask body;

said common edge serving to hold the mask body away from the nose and mouth of the wearer;

means for securing the mask body against the wearer's face, imposing a force (F), along said common edge, substantially away from the periphery of the mask body and at an elevation corresponding to the space between the nose and mouth, and directed toward the face of the wearer;

wherein the mask body is made of non-permeable material and the means for filtering inhaled air includes at least one filter insert which also functions as a stiffener, said means for filtering inhaled air is integrated in the mask body and the peripheral portions of the mask body are more flexible to accommodate the face shape and provide a respiratory seal with positive pressure applied from the outside during inhalation, while allowing exhaled air to pass easily through the peripheral flexible portions.

18. (New) The personal respiratory face mask according to claim 17, wherein the means for securing the mask body is an elastic headband or earloop that contacts the face mask along said common edge, substantially away from the periphery of the face mask and at an elevation that corresponds to the space between the nose and mouth.

19. (New) The personal respiratory face mask according to claim 17, wherein the means for securing the mask body may be attached and released from the mask body by the wearer.

20. (New) The personal respiratory face mask according to claim 17, wherein said filter insert can be replaced by the wearer.

21. (New) The personal respiratory face mask according to claim 17, wherein the non-permeable material comprises any synthetic or natural material with suitable rigidity and flexibility, such as paper, plastic or leather.

22. (New) The personal respiratory face mask according to claim 17, wherein said filter insert comprises a filter sheet media secured between a filter holder which is permanently attached to the mask body and a releasable filter guard.

23. (New) The personal respiratory face mask according to claim 22, wherein said filter sheet media is fixed onto said filter guard and can be replaced by the wearer.

24. (New) The personal respiratory face mask according to claim 17, wherein the means for securing the mask body is fixed onto the mask body, at location(s) substantially away from the periphery of the face mask and near to said common edge.